



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, Ca. 94105

July 5, 1991

Mr. Robert Ivy  
United States Department of Energy  
Grand Junction Projects Office  
Post Office Box 2567  
Grand Junction, CO 81502-2567

RE: Bluewater Uranium Mine Sites, Prewitt, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Ivy:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") has received your proposed plan (June 21, 1991) for corrective action on Department of Energy ("DOE") land occupying the south east quarter (SE 1/4) and the south half of the north half (S1/2 N1/2) of Section 14, Township 13 North, Range 11W of the Bluewater USGS Quadrangle.

The DOE actions are consistent with EPA's Action Memorandum dated June 7, 1991. EPA concurs with the DOE that these actions will adequately mitigate the immediate health concerns at the Site as outlined by ATSDR's Health Advisory (November 1990). However, as discussed, future studies, investigations, and further reclamation may be warranted to adequately address the long term health and environmental hazards associated with the sites.

It was brought to EPA's attention that there was an error in the calculation of the action guideline of 300 uR/hr in the draft action memorandum. Enclosed for your review is the revised action guideline calculation. Therefore, the action guideline level for protore removal should be set at 165 uR/hr (150 uR/hr above background) in areas of frequent visitation. DOE should modify its plans accordingly.

EPA is expecting to commence its response actions on the

other affected sections in late July; and hopefully, we can coordinate our efforts together. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 415-744-2298.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Bornstein", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert Bornstein  
On-Scene-Coordinator  
Emergency Response Section

Enclosure

cc: Raymond Churan, DOI/OEA (for distribution)  
Bill Weis, EPA/ERS  
Bill Nelson, ATSDR  
Linda Wandres, EPA/ORC  
Dr. Gaurav Rajen, Navajo Superfund